(c) Encouragement to indigenous technology for Colour TV (CTV) receiver manufactured is built-into the CTV policy announced in February, 1983. Number of manufacturers have developed their own designs for CTV receivers.

(d) and (e) The consumer price of CTV receivers based on design developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is expected to be comparable to the price of CTV sets, with similar specifications/features, already available in the market.

Threat of Increase in CO2

661. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA *RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER* be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the increasing atmospheric pollution in the world there is a threat of increasing CO2 in the atmosphere;

(b) if so, whether this is likely to cause rapid rise in the sea level in the next thirty years, leading to all coastal cities and towns being submerged;

(c) Whether Government propose to monitor carbon dioxide and other gases contributing to the Greenhouse effect, so as to keep a watch on long-term changes in the climate; and

(d) whether these investigations indicated such a trend in the atmosphere over India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to some recent studies, the quantity of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is expected to double by the middle of the next century. This doubling of the amount of carbon dioxide could lead to an increase in global surface temperature resulting in a marginal rise in the sea level by 20 — 140 cm only.

(c) There is no immediate proposal to monitor carbon dioxide and other gases contributing to the Greenhouse effect.

(d) Does not arise.

Rise in the Newsprint Price

662. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep rise in the price of newsprint both indigenous and imported, which is likely to force the publishers to increase the price of newspapers and magazines;

(b) what steps are being taken to import the newsprint at cheaper prices for small, medium and big newspapers; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the prices of indigenous newsprint and improve its quality in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The indigenous newsprint manufactures were last permitted to increase their ex-factory price of newsprint on 31-12-1985. There has been no further revision of the price of indigenous newsprint thereafter. However, the prices of imported newsprint have shown a rising trend during the recent past. The rise in prices of imported newsprint not the only factor resulting in the increase of price of newspapers and magazines.

(b) Despite a continuous rise in the prices of imported newsprint, STC has been able to finalise purchase at competitive prices by :—

(i) negotiating contracts with Rupee Payment Area for annual tonnages at a fixed price;

(ii) availing discounts provided in its contracts with long-term suppliers;

(iii) introducing new sources of supply with logistic advantage.